

Weekly Disease Surveillance Report

2023 Reporting Week 15: April 9 — April 15



This weekly report is produced by the DOH-Okaloosa Epidemiology Section to provide situational awareness to community partners. Data is subject to change as additional information is gathered.

COVID-19 Trends

COVID-19 levels for Okaloosa slightly decreased during Week 15, and the community level remains low. **Recommended actions based on current COVID-19 Community Level (Low):** Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines. [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms. People may choose to wear a mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

On December 20, 2022, the CDC released a health alert network (HAN) for [Important Updates on COVID-19 Therapeutics for Treatment and Prevention](#) which provides information on COVID-19 Omicron sublineages with reduced susceptibility to specific monoclonal antibody treatments.

ILI Trends

Influenza-like illness (ILI) in Okaloosa plateaued for Week 15, and remains in line with the normal average for this period (current level: 2.17%; normal average: 2.0%). Please stay vigilant, review the weekly [Florida FLU REVIEW](#) for statewide information, and continue to promote vaccination.

On December 14, 2022, the CDC released a HAN for [Interim Guidance for Clinicians to Prioritize Antiviral Treatment of Influenza in the Setting of Reduced Oseltamivir](#) (e.g., Tamiflu). To date, the FDA and the Florida Department of Health have not received notification of shortages. General information on availability of antiviral medications can be found at [Influenza 2022-2034 \(fda.gov\)](#).

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COVID-19 Snapshot

Week 15 Community Level

COVID-19 Community Level	New Hospital Admissions per 100K Population (Past 7 Days)	% Staffed Beds with COVID-19 Patients (Past 7 Days)
LOW	2.9	1.0%

PREVIOUS WEEK COMMUNITY LEVEL: LOW

New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

Week 15 Community Transmission Level

COVID-19 Community Risk Level	New Cases per 100K Population per Week	% Positivity per Week
SUBSTANTIAL	19.0	8.2%

PREVIOUS WEEK RISK LEVEL: SUBSTANTIAL

Low	<10	<5.0%
Moderate	10-49	5.0 - 7.9%
Substantial	50-99	8.0 - 9.9%
High	>100	>10.0%

Community Level and Community Risk/Transmission Level are the color of the higher risk level for each of the two indicators. Data Source : CDC [Community Indicators at the County Level](#)



COVID-19 in Okaloosa County

Week 15: April 9 - April 15

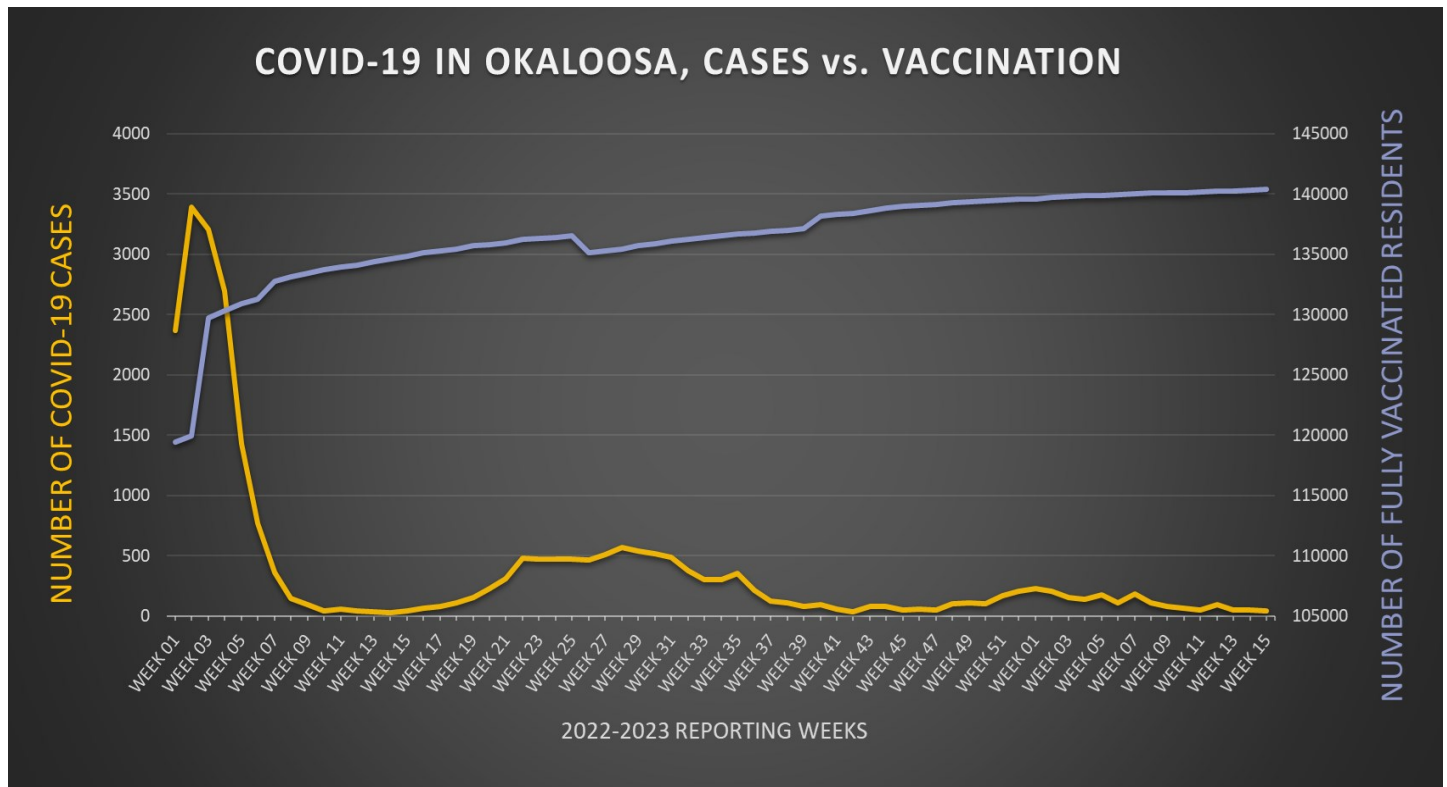


Figure 1: Cumulative number of fully vaccinated Okaloosa residents as compared to COVID-19 cases per week. Data reported through previous Sunday.
Data Source: Merlin & CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)

Week 15 Review		Difference from Wk14
Resident Case Count	40	- 9
Resident Case Count per 100K Population	19.0	-4.3
Average Resident Cases per Day	5.7	- 1.3
Percent Positivity	8.2%	-1.6

Data Source: Merlin Database

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) provides the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with county COVID-19 data, including deaths.

Please visit the [COVID-19 Community Profile Report](#) webpage to obtain death data by downloading the most recent excel file and locating Okaloosa on the 'Counties' tab.

For questions related to COVID-19 death data, please contact the FDOH Office of Communications at 850-245-4111 or NewsMedia@flhealth.gov.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS		
Fully-Vaccinated Groups	OKALOOSA	US
% of Population ≥ 5 Years of Age	71.2%	73.4%
% of Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	77.0%	77.5%
% of Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	79.8%	79.1%
% of Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	95.0%	94.3%

Data reported through previous Sunday. Data Source: CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)



Influenza-Like Illness

Week 15: April 9 - April 15

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100°F AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of another known cause.

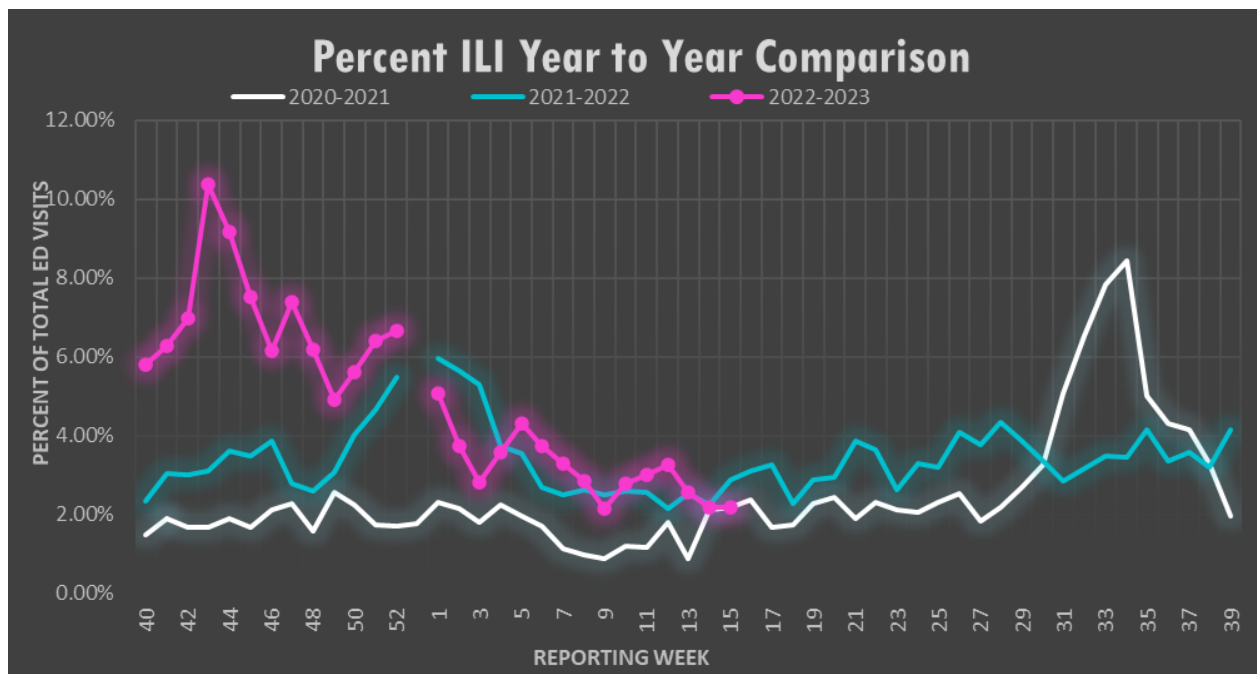


Figure 2: Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa county for the 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 influenza seasons by week. Data source: ESSENCE

ANALYSIS: During Week 15, flu reporting partners and ESSENCE (a syndromic surveillance system) reported a decrease in ILI activity for Okaloosa County. The percentage of ILI ED visits in Okaloosa County plateaued this week (2.19% during Week 14 to 2.17% during Week 15). Flu partners reported 3 positive rapid flu tests this week (1 Influenza A and 2 Influenza B). There have been no specimens submitted to the state lab over the past three weeks. There were no ILI admissions or deaths reported by flu partners this week. No outbreaks have been reported in the past 3 weeks. The percentage of total ILI ED visits for Week 15 is lower than that of Week 15 last year.

Note: Other respiratory syndromes can be represented by increased ILI case numbers. Data Source: ESSENCE

% ILI by Age Group Week 15, 2023

Age Range	ILI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total ILI Visits
0-4	15	184	8.15%
5-19	14	370	3.78%
20-34	13	508	2.56%
35-54	8	594	1.35%
55-74	3	567	0.53%
75+	2	307	0.65%

Data Source: ESSENCE

% of Total ILI Visits by Facility Week 15, 2023

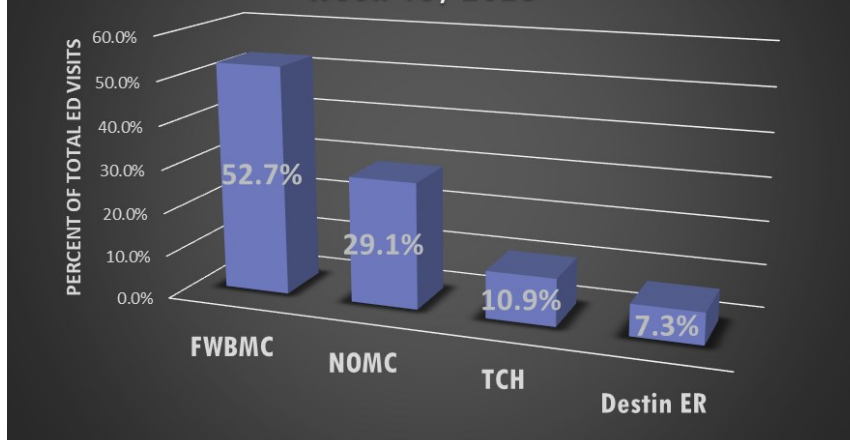


Figure 3: Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=55). Data source: ESSENCE



Syndromic Surveillance

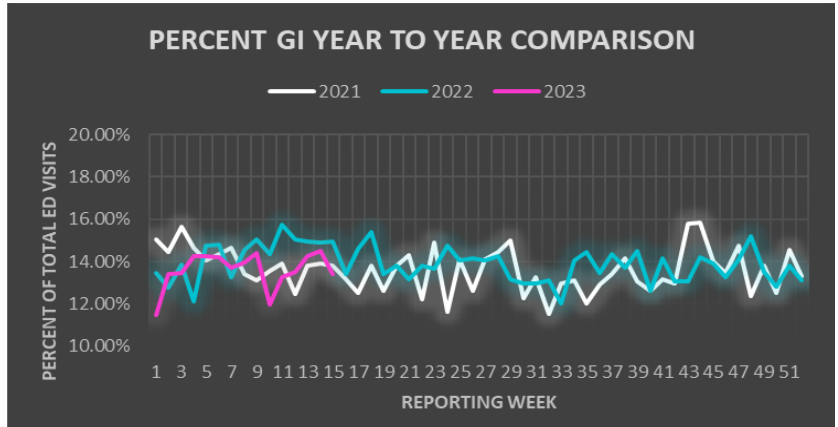
Week 15: April 9- April 15

Gastro-intestinal Illness (GI)

Figure 4:

Annual comparison for the percent of GI for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

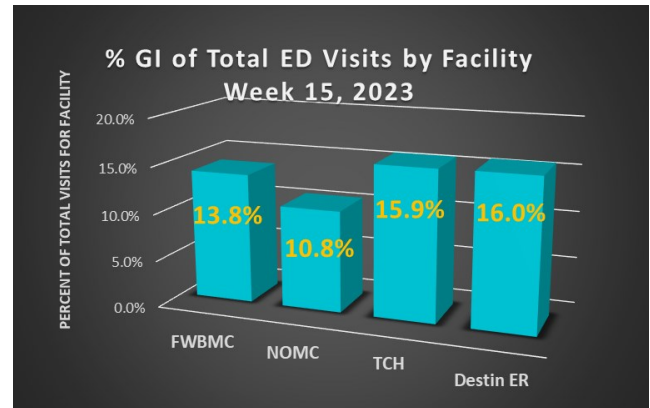


% GI by Age Group Week 15, 2023			
Age Range	GI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total GI Visits
0-4	18	184	9.78%
5-19	48	370	12.97%
20-34	97	508	19.09%
35-54	94	594	15.82%
55-74	63	567	11.11%
75+	20	307	6.51%

Figure 5:

Hospital emergency room visits due to GI illness stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE

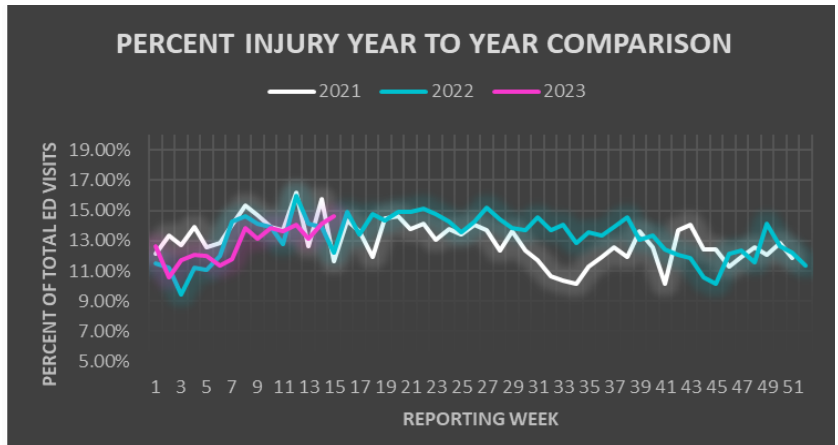


Injury

Figure 6:

Annual comparison for the percent of Injury for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

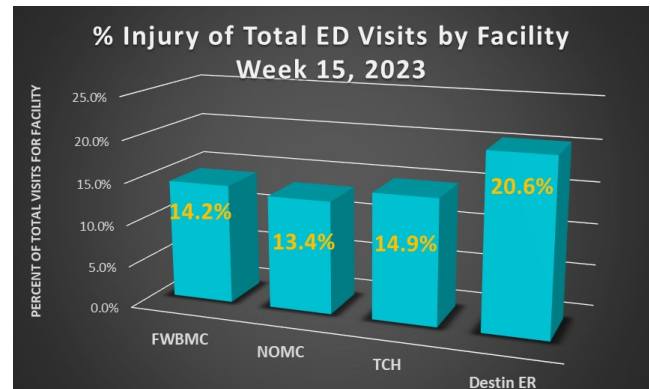


% Injury by Age Group Week 15, 2023			
Age Range	Injury Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total Injury Visits
0-4	33	184	17.93%
5-19	76	370	20.54%
20-34	68	508	13.39%
35-54	67	594	11.28%
55-74	77	567	13.58%
75+	49	307	15.96%

Figure 7:

Hospital emergency room visits due to Injury stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE





Syndromic Surveillance

Week 15: April 9 - April 15

Total ED Visits by Syndrome

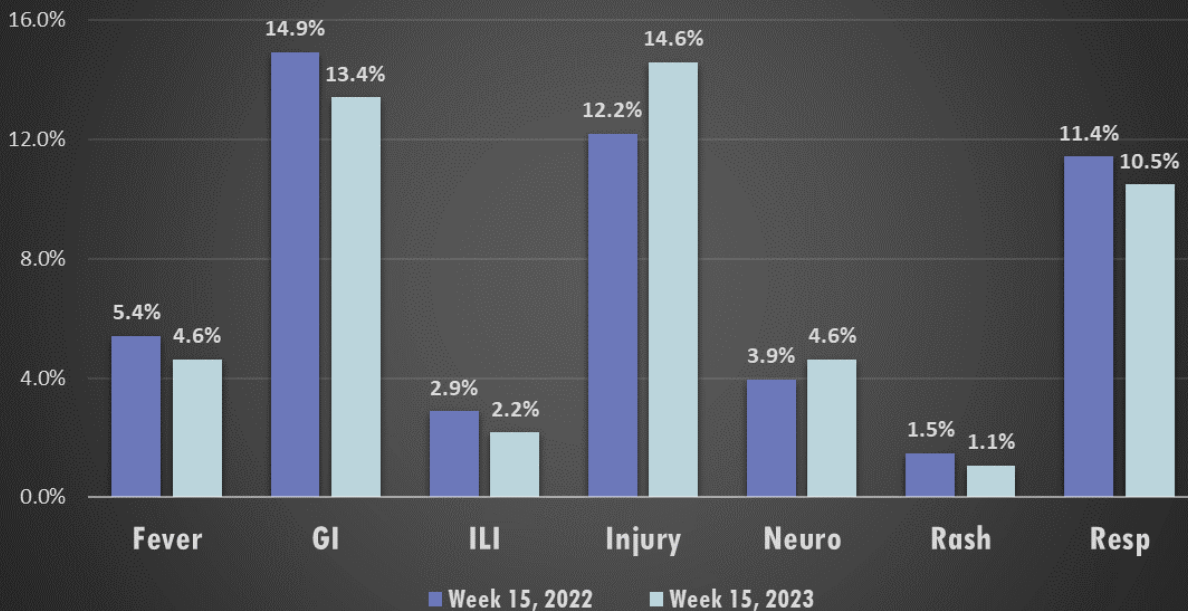
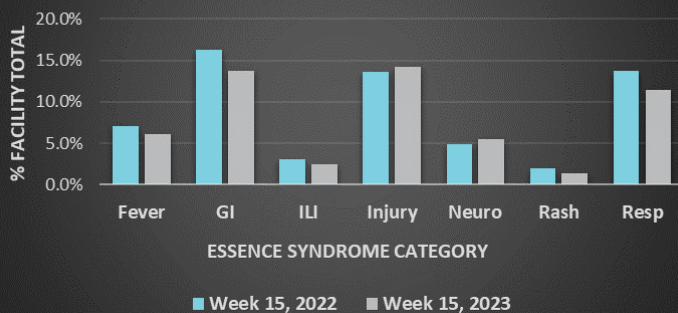


Figure 8: Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2023 Week 15 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2536). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%. Data source: ESSENCE

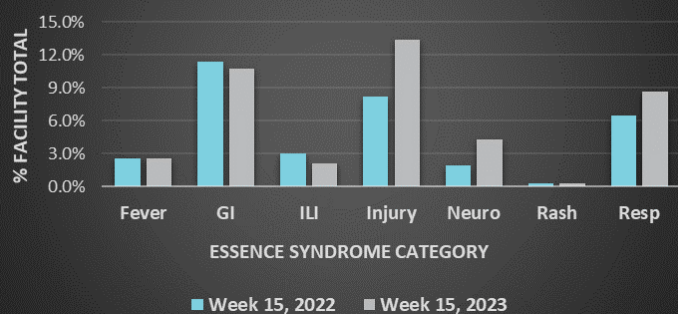
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 15- Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	31
5-19	INJURY	27
20-34	GI	52
35-54	GI	41
55-74	INJURY	41
75+	RESP	26

North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 15- North Okaloosa Medical Center

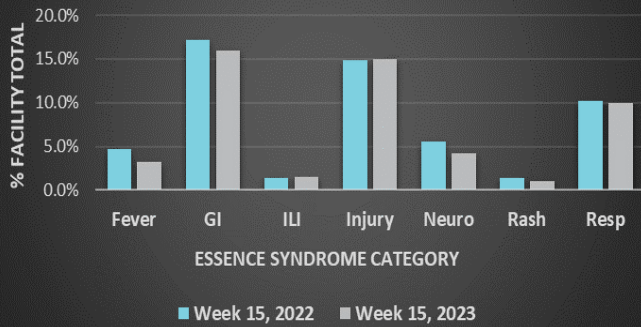
Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	11
5-19	INJURY	21
20-34	GI	25
35-54	GI	26
55-74	INJURY	18
75+	INJURY	15



Syndromic Surveillance

Week 15: April 9 - April 15

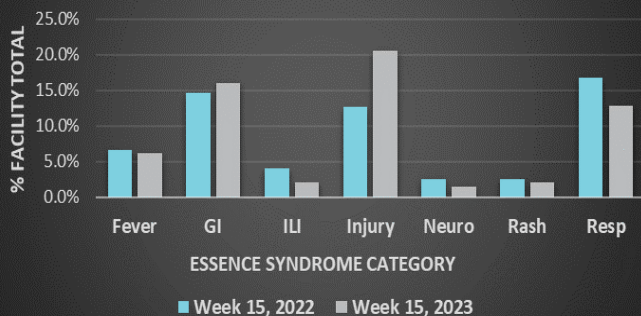
Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



Week 15- Twin Cities Hospital

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	INJURY	6
5-19	INJURY	15
20-34	GI	14
35-54	GI	23
55-74	GI	14
75+	INJURY	13

DestinER ED Presentations



Week 15- Destin ER

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	INJURY	4
5-19	INJURY	13
20-34	INJURY	7
35-54	INJURY	9
55-74	INJURY	6
75+	GI, RESP	2, 2

Week 15—Okaloosa County

Age Group	Top Syndrome
0-4	FEVER
5-19	INJURY
20-34	GI
35-54	GI
55-74	INJURY
75+	INJURY



Data Source: ESSENCE